

MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: Patient Therapeutic Leave From Montana State Hospital	
Policy Number: CTP 19	Standards/Statutes: MCA 53-24-208 ARM 37.27.130
Effective Date: 01/01/02	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE: To define patient therapeutic leave status for inter-institutional transfers from Montana State Hospital.

POLICY: The program accepts patients referred from Montana State Hospital (MSH) on a therapeutic leave status for treatment that have been determined appropriate for Level III.7 care through the initial screening and interview process.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Patients admitted from Montana State Hospital to MCDC will be on therapeutic leave status (ADIS Code 70 forced voluntary) for their first 14 days at MCDC. This has been developed as a coordinated effort between MSH and MCDC. Patients remain on the involuntary commitment order that precipitated the admission to MSH until such time as they are discharged from MSH which will typically take place following the 14 day therapeutic leave status. Patients may remain on commitment status beyond the fourteen days if deemed appropriate by the treatment team. The Liaison between MCDC and MSH is the Mental Health Services Supervisor or designee.
- II. When a patient is formally discharged from MSH, the Mental Health Services Supervisor or designee, will notify nursing and counselors during the morning staff meeting when the status change has taken place and at that time a change of status form will need to be completed with the ADIS Code changing to 60 (voluntary).
- III. If problems arise after regular working hours (Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM), regarding these patients, contact the following staff in this order: Mental Health Services Supervisor/therapist, Program Director, and Clinical Services Supervisor.
- IV. If the patient becomes overly agitated or is unable to be controlled, contact the Medical Director for medical consultation.
- V. During regular working hours, general questions or concerns about a MSH patient that may not be

able to be answered by MCDC staff may be directed to the patient's Social Worker or to the Admissions Coordinator at MSH. If it is necessary to talk to someone at MSH after hours, call 693-7000 and ask for the Nurse Supervisor on duty.

- VI. During the discharge-planning phase of treatment, MSH patient's Social Worker will assist with the mental health continued care plan post treatment placement and appointments.
- VII. If the patient is unable to be effectively served in the program within the 14 days (or while still on commitment status if longer than 14 days), the patient may be transferred back to MSH. Staff of MSH will make themselves available to the staff for treatment consultations and discharge planning.
- VIII. If the patient chooses to leave AMA and is still under the 14 day therapeutic leave status from MSH, do not attempt to physically restrain or detain the patient, however, proceed with the following:
 - A. Call 911 and inform the police of the patient leaving and the need for them to be picked up, which may require providing a description - confidentiality is not an issue here.
 - B. Call MSH at 693-7000 and ask for the admissions coordinator, or the patient's social worker during regular working hours; the nursing supervisor if after hours and report the situation to them.
 - C. Call the following MCDC staff: mental health Services Supervisor/ therapist, Clinical Services supervisor and Program Director.
- IX. In all instances involving patients from MSH be sure to thoroughly document all action that was taken.

Revisions:

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			Date